

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE

July 20, 2000
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Harry Higgins, Scottsdale, Chairman
Anne Blech, Mesa

Tim Tilton, Phoenix
Mark Elma, Tempe
Shiloh Thatcher, Maricopa County

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*Those members not present

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jose Macias, Maricopa County

Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Harry Higgins at 8:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2000

It was moved by Anne Blech seconded by Shiloh Thatcher and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2000.

3. Status Report on Census 2000 Enumeration

Harry Wolfe reported that the Census Bureau is currently undertaking the Coverage Improvement Follow-Up phase of Census 2000; that the program provides the last opportunity for the Census Bureau to identify households not previously counted in Census 2000; and that it is anticipated to be completed by July 27, 2000.

Mr. Wolfe also stated that the Census Bureau is also in the process of undertaking its Accuracy and Coverage Enhancement (ACE) Program. He noted that this is the program by which the Census Bureau samples housing units nationwide to estimate the undercount and to adjust census counts accordingly. He also mentioned that in mid June, the Department of Commerce issued a proposed rule, authorizing the Director of the Census Bureau to decide whether census counts should be adjusted based on sampling.

Harry Higgins asked whether variables other than population would be adjusted based on sampling. Harry Wolfe said he assumed that they would.

4. Statistical Areas Program

Harry Wolfe noted that the Census Bureau forwarded to MAG shape files showing the pre-Census 2000 boundaries; and that MAG notified its member agencies that the files can be forwarded to them upon request. He explained that the number of Census Tracts had increased from 466 to 653; and the number of block groups have increased from 1885 to 2102; but that there might be additional changes when the final boundaries are released.

Shiloh Thatcher said that the verification of the Statistical Areas Program maps would result in numerous changes to the pre-Census 2000 boundaries and the addition of more census tracts and block groups.

Harry Higgins requested a copy of the shape files showing the census tract and block group boundaries.

5. MAG GIS and Database Enhancement Project

Harry Wolfe stated that MAG is undertaking a GIS and Database Enhancement Project to establish the base from which a new set of socioeconomic projections will be developed. He said that Arizona State University is working on providing an updated list of Group Quarters for the region; and that he sent out the list to member agencies and asked them to check the group quarters.

Harry Higgins commented that Scottsdale had compiled a list of group quarters that was different from what ASU compiled. Harry Wolfe responded that if Scottsdale provided the file of group quarters, ASU could compare it against their list and add any missing group quarters.

Harry Wolfe said that other aspects of the Database Enhancement Project that were proceeding was the update of the employment database and the development database. He said that a detailed presentation would be made in August by the MAG consultants on the project.

6. MAG Model Enhancements Project Update

Harry Wolfe reported that this month MAG was requesting an amendment to the contract with Planning Technologies for enhancements to the MAG socioeconomic projections model. He indicated that the enhancements reflected what was requested by the POPTAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee and included: changes to the model to enhance its efficiency, better integration with the trip generation model, development of a portable version of the model that can be distributed to and used by member agencies and development of user documentation and training in the use of the model. He added that the enhancements to the model would facilitate MAG's preparation of the next round of socioeconomic projections, as well providing our member agencies with enhanced capabilities to evaluate their own land use and development plans.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.